THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • JUNE 01, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

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WORK ON CENTRAL VISTA TO CONTINUE: HC

Describing the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment as a "vital and essential" project of national importance, the Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed the plea against it, saying it was "motivated" and filed with "ill-intent" and "lack of bonafides". While allowing its construction, a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh imposed cost of ₹1 lakh on the petitioners who wanted the work to be halted in view of the pandemic.

GDP GROWTH AT HISTORIC LOW OF -7.3%

State of the economy

A quick look at how the economy struggled to cope with the Covid pandemic

SECTOR-WISE PERFORMANCE

Indicators	Growth rate (%) 2019-20	2020-21
Rice production	0.7	2.8
Fish production	4.4	17
Coal production	-0.4	-4.8
Crude oil production	-5.9	-5.2
Cement production	-0.9	11.9
Steel cosumption	1.5	-6.7
Telephone subscribers	-0.3	1.8
Commercial vehicle sales	-28.8	-20.8
Passenger vehicle sales	17.8	-11.7
Passengers handled at airports	-1.1	-66.2
Passengers kilometre (Railways)	-10	-88.4
Export of goods & services	-0.8	-1.7
Import of goods & services	-4.6	-11.1
Manufacturing	-1.4	-9.8
Mining	1.6	-7.8
Electricity	0.9	-0.5

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

HOW INDIA COMPARES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Country	GDP Growth in 2020(%)
Bangladesh	3.60%
Vietnam	2.90%
China	2.30%
South Korea	-1.00%
US	-3.50%
Japan	-4.80%
Germany	-5.00%
Thailand	-6.10%
India	-7.30%
Philippines	-9.50%
UK	-9.80%

Figures for Jan-Dec 2020 except for Bangladesh (July 2020-June 2021) and India (April 2020-March 2021.

Source: World Bank, OECD, Govt data

FY21 marks the worst performance of the country's economy since 1951; major decline in private consumption and household spending

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

INDIA's economy gained another dubious distinction on Monday, with government data showing it to have contracted by 7.3% in FY21 — a four-decade low.

The GDP contraction, driven by protracted lockdowns that stifled consumption and disrupted most economic activities, however, turned out to be better than the earlier estimate of a 8% fall.

As the pandemic sent households into an economic and medical nightmare, they spent ₹7.6 lakh crore less in FY21 over the previous year cutting costs on almost everything from bread to biscuits to electronics and travel, data released by the National Statistical Office on Monday showed.

According to NSO, real GDP at constant prices stood at ₹135.13 lakh crore in FY21, against the first revised estimate of ₹145.69 lakh crore for FY20. Nominal GDP (at current prices) at ₹197.5 lakh crore for FY21 was 3% lower than ₹203.5 lakh crore in 2019-20.

On the brighter side, the economy grew 1.6% in the fourth quarter of FY21, bettering estimates of 1.1% expansion. This holds promise as private consumption, which accounts for more than half of the GDP, showed a slight uptick – from ₹21.04 lakh crore in Q4 of FY20 to ₹21.60 lakh crore.

Private investments, the second highest contributor to the GDP, also showed signs of a revival going up to ₹13.38 lakh crore in the fourth quarter from ₹12.07 lakh crore reported a year ago. For the full financial year, though, private consumptions fell ₹7.6 lakh crore in real terms to ₹75.6 lakh crore. This was mainly on account of salary cuts, job losses and high medical bills. Private investments in real term also declined from ₹47.30 lakh crore to ₹42.20 lakh crore.

"The previous lowest PFCE (private final consumption expenditure) growth was negative 2.2% in FY80 and the lowest GFCF growth was negative 9.5% in FY58," said Devendra Kumar Pant, chief economist at India Ratings. CONTINUED ON: P10

TAC bats for stricter, extended lockdown

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

THE Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Covid has recommended to the Karnataka government to make the present lockdown stricter and to continue it even after June 7. It also said that the restrictions should be lifted in a graded manner when the situation starts improving.

The Centre had recently recommended continuation of restrictions till June-end in districts with total positivity rate (TPR) of over 10 per cent, oxygenated bed occupancy of more than 60 per cent and case fatality rate (CFR) of over 1 per cent.

The state's Covid positivity rate continues to hover around 15 per cent, with CFR at 1.87 per cent.

Considering the Central Government's advisory, the TAC has recommended a stricter lockdown to achieve a TPR of below 5 per cent, daily new cases below 5,000 and CFR below 1 per cent, the committee's report said.

FULL REPORT: P4

KARNATAKA	MAY 30	MAY 31
Fresh cases	20,378	16,604
Recoveries	28,053	44,473
Deaths	382	411

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 30: 30,35,749 doses

June 1: 25,52,501 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 21,58,18,547

NATIONWIDE	MAY 30	MAY 31
Fresh cases	1,65,553	1,52,734
Recoveries	2,76,309	2,38,022
Deaths	3,460	3,128

State to buy jabs directly from manufacturers

The State Government has decided to purchase Covid vaccines directly from manufacturers, as the two firms which had submitted bids in response to global tender have not submitted the requisite documents | P4

TOUGH APEX COURT POSERS ON VAX POLICY, DIGITAL DIVIDE

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE Centre had a torrid time before the Supreme Court on Monday as it was heavily criticised for its vaccination policy. A three-judge bench led by Justice D Y Chandrachud posed searching questions to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on the policy and the rural-urban digital divide.

Citing technical glitches on CoWIN application used for registration for vaccinations, Justice Ravindra Bhat said he had received distress calls from all over the country, and added that young people, who had registered for vaccination, visit private hospitals, only to find all slots are booked.

Asking to take its suggestions in the right spirit, the bench said: "We are not going to run the Central government and make policies for you." Responding to the Centre's request not to interfere with the policy, Justice Chandrachud said it is a platform for dialogue across the spectrum.

"The idea is not to criticise, but to strengthen the arms of the government. The fact that MEA went abroad, had dialogue shows the seriousness of the situation," he added.

The Centre claimed it was confident of vaccinating all eligible persons over 18 years by this year-end. The court then gave two weeks to the Centre to file an affidavit responding to the questions raised during the hearing on the vaccine policy. P7

EXPRESS READ

Pinarayi writes to 11 CMs to press Centre on vaccine procurement

T'puram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday wrote to 11 CMs of non-BJP ruled states seeking a united effort to press the Centre to procure Covid-19 vaccines and ensure free universal vaccination. In his letter, Vijayan said the statements to the effect that the responsibility to provide vaccine entirely falls within the realm of the states defy the very basis of cooperative federal system | P5

US top doc Vivek Murthy sends medical supplies

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

WITH the news of acute shortage of medical requirements in India reaching the United States, the family of **Dr Vivek Murthy**, Vice-Admiral in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, has sent a shipment of oxygenators and other necessities worth over ₹1.4 crore to Mandya, which is his place of origin.

Vivek Murthy's father Lakshmi Narasimha Murthy told *The New Indian Express* that the supplies are being sent to about 12 different smaller hospitals in Madikeri and Mandya as they are not getting sufficient supplies. He said they have selected only taluk hospitals and two village PHCs. The distribution started on Monday.

Vivek's cousin Vasanth said that the materials will be given to Hallegere. Vivek's native village, Mandya, Maddur, Malavalli, Nagamangala and other places. There are also plans to construct a Covid ward at a cost of ₹1 crore, he added.

Vivek and family are also planning to send another shipment of materials worth over ₹70 lakh soon.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Crafty Mamata gets to retain top official

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE tussle over the recall of Bengal Chief Secretary **Alapan Bandopadhyay** to Delhi took a dramatic turn on Monday with the officer opting out of the service extension granted to him, by retiring upon superannuation. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee promptly appointed him as advisor for three years, showing how good she is at playing mind games.

The Centre had earlier accepted Mamata's request for three-month extension to Bandopadhyay. But after she stayed away from a meeting on cyclone Yaas with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, the angry Centre played the Bandopadhyay card. Within the bureaucracy, state home secretary H K Dwivedi became the beneficiary of Bandopandhyay's resignation, as he was appointed the new chief secretary.

Earlier, Mamata wrote to Modi describing the Centre's decision to transfer Bandopadhyay to Delhi as unilateral, unprecedented and unconstitutional. "The government of Bengal cannot release and it is not releasing its chief secretary at this critical hour, on the basis of our understanding that the earlier order of extension, issued after lawful consultation in accordance with applicable laws, remains operational and valid," she said.

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• Repayment Period: 5 years including moratorium of 6 months
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For details : email at Sanjeevani.sme@sbi.co.in or contact your nearest SME Branch or SME Centre.

KMF
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JUNE 1, 2021
WORLD MILK DAY WISHES
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To Avoid getting infected from the present Pandemic Covid-19 it is very necessary to protect your body with total Healthy consumption.
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